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EMS holds
Black History
Month assembly



INSIDE
ZC seniors
treat teachers
with brunch



The Elba Clipper

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Upon 25th Anniversary of death

Early morning ceremony celebrates life of late Sheriff C.F. "Neil" Grantham

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Friends and family members of the late C. F. "Neil" Grantham gathered at 6:30 Monday morning to mark the 25th anniversary of his death.

The sheriff was shot down with three shots from a .38 caliber pistol as he walked from his official car to the front gate of the Coffee County jail.

Billy Joe Magwood, a former inmate at the jail, was arrested

later that morning, charged and convicted of the killing.

Magwood, a Vietnam War veteran, had completed serving a sentence in the county jail after being convicted on a drug charge. He was convicted in the killing

and received a death sentence. This sentence was later overturned but was reinstated in the ordered resentencing hearing.

Repeated appeals of the trial and/or the sentence have kept the convicted man sitting on death row at Atmore for most of the past 25 years.

Monday morning, Grantham family members were presented with proclamations from the Alabama Attorney General, Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Legislature. They were also presented with an American flag honoring Grantham's service to his country.

Legal advisor Troy King, an Elba native, read and presented the proclamation on behalf of the governor.

Family members have long fought these appeals but now say they accept reality and just want to be sure Magwood is never freed.



PRESENTING A U. S. FLAG to members of Neil Grantham's family are representatives of Battery B, the 3rd Battalion, 117th FA, Elba, each with personal memories of Sheriff Neil Grantham.

"New" Coffee County EMS searching for solid ground

by Linda Hodge, Editor

A couple of months ago, things looked very bleak for the local ambulance service. Now, things are looking better, but officials say there are still some obstacles to overcome.

Coffee County EMS ceased to exist as a for-profit business at midnight on Oct. 31, 2003. On Nov. 1, 2003, the medical service provider became Coffee County EMS, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Overseeing the "new" EMS is a board of directors consisting of Marvin McIlwain, Pat Crosby, Bill Dean, Stephanie Pierce, Danny Jordan, L.M. Burch and Linda Westbrook.

Crosby also is employed as operational manager of Coffee County EMS, Inc.

According to Bill Dean, treasurer of the board, the one thing the board realized right away was that the city and county governments, as well as, the local citizens didn't realize the dire shape of the overall situation.

He said the members of the board immediately went to the City of Elba for help, and Mayor James Grimes took on the coordination of the project.

"The in-kind services have saved us to this point," Dean said.

Marvin McIlwain serves as president of the board and he said National Security, Kelley Foods of Alabama, the Elba General Hospital and The Peoples Bank also deserve

credit for their help.

McIlwain said the primary problem the company faces in Elba is that it does not cover just Elba. It also provides service to the western part of Coffee County.

Coffee County EMS, Inc. has two contracts - one with the city and county to provide E-911 medical service coverage and one with the Elba General Hospital to provide transport coverage.

McIlwain said Elba and Western Coffee County has a smaller population base than

other parts of the county, and although Coffee County EMS has no problem providing the availability of one full-time crew, the struggle is to provide the secondary crew to cover the area.

"There is a necessity, but we're not financially able at this time to have two crews," Dean said. "However, our plan is to have a backup crew ready within five minutes of a call."

Dean said the company has operating costs of \$24,000 per month.

"With our sources, we are good for \$22,000 per month," he said. "You don't have to be a mathematician to figure that out."

He said the company is within \$2,000 each month of being



The City of Elba recently helped Coffee County EMS, Inc. acquire this 1992 Ford E-350 ambulance from the state surplus lot. The ambulance only had 27,000 miles when purchased, and it is being used as the organizations primary unit. Those pictured above include (from left): Steven Colbert, James Simmons, Adrienne Spines, Pat Crosby, Elba Mayor James Grimes and Danny Jordan.

able to provide the type of service the area needs, and he feels as though it can be done with overall cooperation.

McIlwain said it has already been determined that Elba is simply too small to run a for-profit ambulance service business, but it is also too big to not have any service at all.

"We're trying to cover this big area with limited funds," Dean said. "With the in-kind, we have been able to hold it together. We've got sources for 92 percent of our expenses."

However, it was stressed that without some cuts or assistance, the area could eventually face zero ambulance service.

Dean noted that Crosby is the only full-time employee of

Coffee County EMS as all other employees are part-time. Also, the board members currently serve as volunteers and receive no compensation for their time.

By becoming a non-profit agency, Dean said, Coffee County EMS will now be able to apply for grants, hold fund raising events and accept donations. Also, he said it allows the agency to partner with the city, county and state.

Although Dean and McIlwain agreed the board is looking for nickels and dimes to assure financial stability for the agency, Dean said it is also important to note that Coffee County EMS, Inc. is not far away from being on solid ground.



A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION was presented to members of the family of the late Sheriff Neil Grantham who was gurned down 25 years ago this past Monday. The ceremony was held on the grounds of the old jail close to where the actual killing took place. Pictured above are Representative Terry Spicer, Senator Jimmy Holley, Neil's son Charles Grantham and grandchildren Reece and Neil Grantham. The two grandchildren are children of Neil's other son, Kenneth Grantham, who was present and conducting the event remembering the life of C. F. "Neil" Grantham.

County Democratic committee sets kickoff

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Executive Committee has set qualifying dates for all candidates who wish to run as a Democrat in Coffee County for the year 2004.

The kickoff will be Tuesday, March 9, beginning at 7 p.m. at Boot's Place in Enterprise. Qualifying papers will be available during the event.

able during the event.

All candidates are encouraged to attend; however, those unable to attend this event have until 5 p.m. April 2 to qualify, and to qualify after March 9, candidates may call Eddie Vaughan at 334/897-2273, Ext. 209 or 897-0395 for qualifying papers and fees.

Elba Lions Club annual pancake breakfast planned for Saturday

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The smell of pancakes and sausage will fill the air Saturday morning, March 6, in downtown Elba as the Elba Lions Club presents its annual Pancake Breakfast.

The breakfast will be held at the Elba Senior Citizens Center from 6:10 a.m. and serves as the club's annual fund raising event. The pancake breakfast allows the Elba Lions Club to support projects to help people and organizations.

In the past, the pancake breakfast has allowed the Elba Lions Club to assist the Alabama Sight Conservation, Camp Seale Harris, Southeast Leader Dog



Lions Club members look forward to flipping pancakes the first Saturday of each March.

School, American Diabetes Association, Elba D.A.R.E. Program, Elba Boy Scout Troop 37, as well as, local sight programs.

Lions Club International long ago established its principal purpose as its support programs to prevent blindness and to aid people in surgical care for eye diseases.

In 2002, monies raised by the Elba Lions Club helped provide eye exams/glasses for 14 Elba residents.

Therefore, all Elba residents are encouraged to attend Saturday's annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast and help the club members "make Elba a better place to live."

Tickets are being sold now but can be purchased at the door Saturday morning.

NOTICE

The unveiling of the Pennel Butler Monument in New Brackton, originally planned for Saturday, Feb. 28, has been postponed until a later date.



NEW MANAGEMENT...Smith Auto Sales (located just north of Elba on Hwy. 87) has experienced some changes recently with Mike and Jeana Smith taking over as owners/operators. However, the family business still offers the same quality service in regards to auto and cellular telephone sales. Smith Auto buys, sales and trades automobiles, and the business is an authorized agent for Alltel cellular telephones. The Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the new managers to business last Thursday, Feb. 26, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left): Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Future Little Miss Elba Ainsley Padgett, Sam Cooper, Barry Giles, Tanner Smith, Jeana Smith, Jacob Smith, Jimmy Harrison, Wayne Grantham - Elba's city clerk, Doris Matthews, Mike Smith, Herby McCall and Miss Elba Anna Anderson.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY BOE will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the board of education office in Elba.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting Monday, March 8, at 9 a.m. in the community room at the county complex in New Brackton.

THE ZION CHAPEL P.T.O. will meet Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. All parents and teachers are urged to attend this meeting.

THE COFFEE COUNTY LAKE will reopen Friday, March 12. The lake will be open from daylight to sunset and recently has been restocked with bream and catfish.

THE ENTERPRISE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is hosting a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 12, 7:30 a.m. at Cuts Restaurant. The program is open to the public, not just members of the Chamber. Guest speakers will be Senator Jimmy Holley and Representative Terry Spicer. RSVP 347-0581.

ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the 2004-05 school year will be Wednesday, March 18, and Thursday, March 19, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the elementary school. The child must turn 5-years-old on or before Sept. 2. In order to register, parents should bring an Alabama shot record, a birth certificate and Social Security card.

SPORTS

Views from....

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

In most cases the longer you are around someone the closer you get and the more you understand them. However, in the case of children it seems that as they grow older they begin to grow apart from their parents and oftentimes leave us wondering just what we did to help mold them into young adults. This week I am sure I will do a lot of looking back and wondering what the future will bring when my oldest daughter Melissa turns twenty-one. I can remember when she was born and how it snowed on March 7, 1983, and how it felt when the nurse told me I had a daughter. I have been blessed with two great kids, and while it has been an adventure watching them grow up, it is a little scary when I stop and realize that one is already an adult. Happy Birthday, Melissa... I love you!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

*** Last week's heavy rains washed away the season openers for both the Elba High baseball and softball teams, but both teams have good weeks ahead and by this time next week we should all have a pretty good idea of what the season might bring. The Tiger baseball team should have good speed, solid hitters and play well on defense, but the big question mark will be on the mound where seniors Derrick Thomas and Ralston Moore will have to step up and lead the way. The Tigers lost all three of their starting pitchers from a year ago, and will need for these guys to carry the load early in the season. While the Tigers will have a new look on the field, it should be an exciting season as the new bunch of Tigers get their chance to show what they can do. The Lady Tigers return almost their entire team from a year ago that advanced to the sub-state finals and unlike the baseball team has no worries about pitching, where Stephanie Baxley will return and should only get better after showing last season that she was one of the top pitchers in South Alabama. The Elba girls are a little suspect at the plate and will have to play excellent defense to win consistently, but with Baxley should have a chance to win every time they hit the field.

*** The Elba All-Stars will hit the court this week at four sites to compete in ARPA District action, and while all four teams will play their best and represent the city well, the teams will face an up hill battle since Elba will be the smallest team taking part in each of the tournaments. The girls will be up against teams from Greenville, Headland, Enterprise, Geneva, Troy, Andalusia and Eufaula, while the boys will up it off against teams from Greenville, Geneva, Andalusia, Troy, Enterprise, Opp and Dothan. The teams have worked hard to get ready and will play hard and win but sometimes the scoreboard doesn't tell the whole story. Good luck!

*** Registration is underway for boys baseball and girls softball in Elba and as of late last week the number of youth signing up was down from years past in a couple of age groups. I know that the population of Elba hasn't grown in years, but for some reason it seems like a lot of parents are not encouraging their children to participate in sports. I know that it is easier for parents to sit at home after a day at work and not have to take their kids to practice and then sit at games, but they should let the kids enjoy themselves and there is nothing they enjoy more than being with other kids their own age and playing ball. Registration will continue until next Monday, and I urge all parents to sign up their kids and support them as they participate. They will only be kids once.

*** The Southeast Regional Basketball Tournament was held last week at Troy State and it was not a good week for area teams. Dothan, Highland Home, Samson, Geneva and Opp all lost in girls action, while in the boys division Ashford, Dothan and Charles Henderson all saw their seasons come to an end. The regional tournament is a great event that gives basketball fans in Southeast Alabama the chance to see some outstanding basketball action, and it also gives the high school players in the area the chance to watch other teams play and dream of making a trip to Troy State.

*** I got the chance to watch the Troy State play on television last week and was amazed to see the Trojans score 113 points in a by win over Jacksonville. The Trojans nailed 18 three-pointers in the win and have a legitimate argument that they might very well be the best college basketball team in the state. Troy State has a chance to post an 18-2 conference record in the Atlantic Sun, and should make it to the NCAA even if it stumbles and does not win the conference tournament. Troy State may be the best kept secret in college basketball this season.

*** I have never been a soccer fan, but ever since former Elba Tiger football and baseball standout Stan Sauls was named head soccer coach at Enterprise High School I will admit I always check the soccer scores in the daily papers to see how the Wildcats are doing. Coach Sauls coached soccer at Prattville before coming back to Coffee County, and is now the head soccer coach at high school as well as the head basketball and football coach at an Enterprise Junior High. There is no doubt Coach Sauls has dedicated his life to helping students both in the classroom and in the field of athletics, and we are all that he is an Elba High grad.

*** In closing, in the Class 1A Girls Finals last week at the Northwest Regional, in Hanceville, Hazlewood outscored Speake 102-91 to earn a spot in the Final Four. Hazlewood hit only seven three-pointers in the win, but took 94 shots from the floor and also hit 27 of 35 free-throws. Speake attempted only seven shots from behind the arc and made only one, but took 70 shots and was led by Starla Orr with 58 points and 17 rebounds. The 193 points set a state record for points scored, and with a total of only eight three-pointers made by both teams combined, it proves that a team doesn't have to shoot from behind the arc to win.

Tell'em you read it in....

THE PRESSBOX

Now Accepting Applications

1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
3-Bedroom Townhouses

Units available for elderly, handicapped & disabled

Included FREE!

Water, sewage, garbage pick-up and pest control

On-site laundry facilities
& playground for childrenOffice open Mon-Fri
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.BEAVER DAM APARTMENTS
897-3517 • HIGHWAY 84 W. ELBA, AL

Deadline to register is March 8

Registration now underway for youth baseball and softball leagues in Elba

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation is currently holding registration for boys and girls ages 4-18 that wish to participate in baseball and softball this spring and summer.

Registration began on Feb. 24 and will continue until March 8, with teams to be selected the first week in March and games scheduled to begin on April 5.

"I urge all the boys and girls that want to play baseball and softball this spring and summer to sign up this week so that they will be included when teams are chosen next week," stated Elba Recreation Director Ricky Mularz. "We took forms to Elba High School and Elba Elementary School, as well as all the day cares in the city. As of last week the numbers were down in a couple of leagues, and once the deadline passes to register, players will only be added to teams as needed. To guarantee a player a spot on a team they need to register no later than March 8 at 5:00 PM. We want every boy and girl in Elba to take part and enjoy playing baseball and softball, but they have to register to play. Everyone also needs to remember that just because a player took part in the past they still must register to play again this season."

"This will be an exciting season for all the leagues," added Mularz, "and we will host two baseball tournaments and our Dixie Minor, Dixie Youth and Dixie Boys Leagues will all be in new sub-districts. We will host the Dixie Boys 14-year-old tournament beginning on June 18 and the Dixie Youth tournament beginning on June 25, with five teams taking part in both events. A major change in Dixie Boys will have all teams playing each other in pool play before the start of the regular tournament. This will mean that both the 13-year-old and 14-year-old Dixie Boys All-Star games instead of just two, as in years past. Teams included on our sub-dis-

trict in Dixie Minor and Dixie Youth will be Elba, Troy, Enterprise, Coffee County and Brundidge, while teams in our sub-district in Dixie Boys will include Elba, Brantley, Luverne, Georgiana and Highland Home. These new teams will bring added excitement to the tournaments and give the players the chance to compete against players from other cities.

"Since both Zion Chapel and New Brockton now have their own baseball leagues we will once again travel during regular season action," said Mularz. "Our Dixie Minor and Dixie Youth teams will travel to Zion Chapel, New Brockton and Samson during the regular season, while the Dixie Boys teams will travel to Luverne and Samson. The Dixie Pre Majors and Dixie Majors teams will travel and play teams on a home-and-home basis. This year we will also travel in the Dixie Softball leagues. The Dixie Angels and Dixie Ponytails will travel to New Brockton, Zion Chapel and Opp, while the Dixie Belles will travel to Opp and Andalusia, and the Dixie Debs will travel to various towns and play on a home-and-home basis."

Following is a list of the leagues offered in both baseball and softball.

BASEBALL
• **Tea Ball Baseball** - This league is for boys ages 4-6, with a players age being determined by their age on August 1, 2004. Games are played using Dixie Majors rules and are played at the Elba High School field.

• **Dixie Majors Baseball** - This league is for boys ages 17-18, with a players age being determined by their age on August 1, 2004. Games are played using Dixie Majors rules and are played at the Elba High School field.

• **Dixie Debs Softball** - This league is for girls ages 16-18, with a players age being determined by their age on June 1, 2004. This is a fast-pitch softball league and nine players are used on defense and nine players bat. Games are played at the Elba High School field.

• **Dixie Angels Softball** - This league is for girls ages 9-10, with a players age being determined by their age on June 1, 2004. Pitchers pitch in this fast-pitch softball league and all teams also use a catcher. Ten players play on defense, while all players bat in a continual batting order. Games are played at Hawkins-Williams Park.

• **Dixie Ponytails Softball** - This league is for girls ages 11-12, with a players age being determined by their age on August 1, 2004. Games are played using Dixie Boys rules and all batters are included in a continual batting order. Score is kept on the scoreboard. Games are played at Legion Field.

• **Dixie Belles Softball** - This league is for girls ages 13-15, with a players age being determined by their age on June 1, 2004. Pitchers pitch in this fast-pitch softball league and all teams also use a catcher. Ten players play on defense, while all players bat in a continual batting order. Games are played at Hawkins-Williams Park.

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• **Coach Pitch Softball** - This league is for girls ages 7-8, with a players age being determined by their age on June 1, 2004. A teams coach pitches to their own players and all players play on defense and all players bat in every inning. Score is kept on the scoreboard and coaches are allowed on the field. Games are played at Hawkins-Williams Park.

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SPORTS

IT'S "TOURNAMENT TIME" FOR ELBA ALL-STARS

Elba "10 and Under" All-Stars to meet Geneva on Friday night at Enterprise High School gym

The Elba Boys 10-year-Old All-Stars will travel to Enterprise this weekend to compete in the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association District 6 Basketball Tournament.

The Elba All-Stars will open tournament play on Friday, March 5, at 7:15 PM, when they meet Geneva. All games will be played at the Enterprise High School gym.

"Our boys have had a good season and are looking forward to competing in the tournament," said Coach Scott Kelley. "We have been working hard to get ready for the tournament and feel certain that we will play well and represent our league well against the teams from other cities."

Team members include Tyler Anderson, Harry Griffin, Seth Hanchey, Austin Johnson, Connor Kelley, Jaron Kelley, Sage Kelley, Nick McLaughlin, Michael Martin, KeAnthony Newson and Hayes Spier.

Following is the tournament bracket:

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
7:15 - Geneva vs. Elba
8:30 - Andalusia vs. Troy

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
9:00 - Greenville vs. Geneva-Elba winner
10:15 - Enterprise vs. Andalusia-Troy winner
1:00 - Championship game

New Brockton drops three straight in Boll Weevil Classic

The New Brockton Gamecocks opened the 2004 14-2 decision. Tyler McLean ripped an RBI double and Heath Parker reached on an error to account for the Gamecocks runs, while New Brockton helped Holmes County as the Gamecocks were guilty of 12 errors in the loss.

New Brockton battled 3A power Straughn on even terms through five innings before falling 7-1. The Gamecocks closed out their tournament action with a 17-0 loss to G.W. Long. Drew Donaldson had the only hit for New Brockton in the loss.

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Elba "12 and Under" All-Stars to do battle against Opp Saturday morning at Andalusia High gym

The Elba Boys 12 and Under All-Stars will head over to Andalusia this weekend to compete in the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association District 6 Basketball Tournament.

Elba will begin play on Saturday morning at 10:15, when it hits the court to battle the Opp All-Stars. All games will be played at the Andalusia High School gym.

"We have a good group of players and expect to compete well against the teams in the tournament," said Coach Patrick Tyson. "All the players have worked hard since being named to the team and are excited about going to Andalusia to play."

Team members include Jason Allen, Hunter Cauley, Chance Goosby, Justin McLaughlin, Stephen Magwood, Devon Muhammad, Sandarius Reed, Donta Reynolds, Kareem Silar and Devonta Tillis.

Following is the tournament bracket:

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
6:00 - (Game 1) Troy vs. Enterprise

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
9:00 - (Game 2) Geneva vs. Andalusia
10:15 - (Game 3) Elba vs. Opp
11:30 - (Game 4) Greenville vs. Game 1 winner
1:00 - (Game 5) Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner
3:30 - Championship game

Elba "18 and Under" All-Stars to host Dothan Friday night in action at Elba High School gym

The Elba All-Stars will swing into action this week when they host the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association District 6 Basketball Tournament, at the Elba High gym.

The All-Stars will tip-off the tournament on Friday night at 6:00 against Dothan.

"We have a good group of players and expect to play well in the tournament," said Coach Tim Whitfield. "The other three teams in the tournament are from much larger cities, but our players work hard in practice and will play hard when the tournament starts."

Team members include Tim Daniels, Kyle English, Marcus Henderson, Dominique Miller, Kevin Parks, Quinton Robinson, Andrew Stoudemire, Jessie Thigpen, Corey Wheeler and Brandon Wilson.

Following is the tournament bracket:

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
6:00 - Elba vs. Dothan
7:30 - Enterprise vs. Greenville

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
10:00 - Championship game

Elba Girls All-Stars to battle Andalusia Saturday morning at Admiral Moorer gym in Eufaula

The Elba Girls All-Stars will travel to Eufaula this weekend to compete in the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association District 6 Basketball Tournament.

Elba will begin tournament play on Saturday at 9:00 AM against the Andalusia All-Stars, with all games to be played at the Admiral Moorer Middle School gym.

"Our girls played hard during the regular season," said Coach Tim Williams, "and now will get the chance to see how they stand against girls from other cities. We will be the only team in the tournament that will have ten year olds on the team, but we have been working hard and will play hard Saturday."

Members of the team include Brooke Adcock, Jeanetta Burks, Ja'Micah Dunn, Kei-Auna Edwards, Aspen Foushee, KeKe Oliver, Kim Perdue, Priscilla Simmons, Jacquetta Whitfield, Jessica Whitfield and Courtney Williams.

Following is the tournament bracket:

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
6:00 - (Game 1) Enterprise vs. Geneva
7:00 - (Game 2) Troy vs. Hartford
8:00 - (Game 3) Greenville vs. Ft. Rucker

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
9:00 - (Game 4) Elba vs. Andalusia
10:30 - (Game 5) Headland vs. Game 1 winner
12:00 - (Game 6) Eufaula vs. Game 2 winner
1:30 - (Game 7) Game 3 winner vs. Game 5 winner
3:00 - (Game 8) Game 6 winner vs. Game 4 winner
5:00 - (Game 9) Championship game

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AUCTION: FRIDAY March 12, 11:00 a.m. 361 acres/ of excellent hunting & timber land, Vernon AL. Call for brochure. Mickey Fowler ALSL460. Fowler Auction 1-866-293-4157.

AUCTION MARCH 6, Gunterville, Alabama. 2 homes, lake front, lake access. 40 Winchester Centennial rifles, pistols, collectible fishing lures, rods, reels, etc. ALSL 1206. 1-256-582-5585.

AUCTION-TUES March 9th, 10 a.m. MEH. 1480 Republic Rd. P'ham, AL. Door, windows, building materials. Warehouse full. 1-205-945-0408. Asset Liquidators. Clydene Hughes AL 1275 (R)

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'02 FORD EXPLORER XLT - special **\$16,900**



'01 TAHOE LS - 3rd seat - loaded - great price



'03 PONTIAC SUNFIRE COUPE - AT-4 - still in warranty - only **\$13,900**



01 EXPLORER XLT - one owner - like new - only **\$13,900**



'03 IMPALA SEDAN - AT-6 - under factory warranty - two to choose from - only **\$14,900**



'01 MAZDA MITA - one owner - 13,000 miles - extra clean



'03 F250 SUPER DUTY 4X4 - crew cab - extra clean - lariat leather



'01 EXPEDITION - EDDIE BAUER - leather - moon roof - loaded



'02 FORD F-150 LARIAT - 4wd - supercab - local one owner - extra clean



'03 CHEVROLET S-10 CREW CAB - 4 X 4 - AT-6 - like new - only 14k miles - all the extras



'03 CHEVROLET LWB - reg cab - AT-8 - work truck pkg - only 14K miles - great buy



'02 CHEVROLET EX CAB 4 X 4 - only 27,000 miles - local trade



'99 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS loaded with features - local trade



'00 CHEVROLET LS - reg cab - AT-8 - great buy

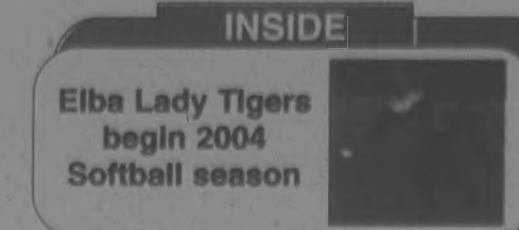
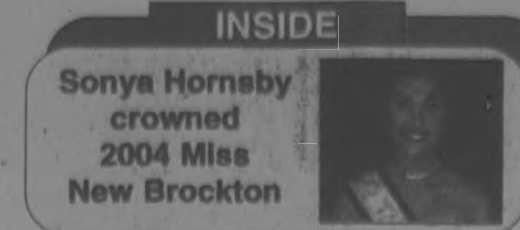
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The Elba Clipper

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50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 11, 2004

1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Elba native named Alabama's Attorney General

Troy King took office as Attorney General of Alabama on March 8, 2004. He was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to complete the term of Bill Pryor who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. This appointment makes King the youngest Attorney General currently serving in the United States.

A native of Elba, King graduated summa cum laude in 1990 from Troy State University, where he was chairman of the College Republicans for four years. He earned his law degree in May 1994 from The University of Alabama, where he was a founder and chairman of the Law School Republicans.

Governor Bob Riley appointed King as his legal advisor in January 2003, where he oversaw major

litigation involving the state of Alabama. As legal advisor, he planned and filed pleadings, devised

strategies, and litigated cases in state and federal courts on behalf of the governor, and developed plans to defend and conclude major class action litigation. Specifically, King has represented the state of Alabama in some of the most complex

and longstanding court cases in state history, working to bring an end to expensive court cases involving the state departments of Corrections, Mental Health and Human Resources. He also has played a critical role in Governor Riley's groundbreaking approach to restructuring the Reynolds lawsuit against the State Department of Transportation, one of the state's longest-running law

suits that has created a terrible drain on state resources. King helped devise the state's current strategy to attack the lawsuit by restricting the plaintiffs' ability to generate frivolous claims and by reducing legal fees for the state.

As Governor Riley's legal advisor, King worked tirelessly to bring competition to state contracts, bringing more accountability to state government and reducing costs to taxpayers. He has traveled the state lecturing for reform and accountability and speaking out against voter fraud and public corruption. King also worked on the staff of Governor Fob James in 1995, serving as deputy legal

advisor, deputy chief of staff and acting chief of staff. He also taught business law as an adjunct professor at Troy State University Montgomery in 1999. From January 18, 1999, to January 20, 2003, King served in the Opinions Division of the Attorney General's office, where he drafted opinions for Attorney General Bill Pryor to advise government officials of the law, served as in-house counsel to the Lieutenant Governor, and represented other state agencies as their staff counsel.

King is married to the former Paige Pinson of Montgomery, where they have resided since 1995. King is a deacon at First Baptist Church in Montgomery, where he and his wife teach children's Sunday School.

They have three children, son Briggs and daughters Colden and Asher.

Troy is the son of Bobby and Nattie King, now of Montgomery and the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert King and the late Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jones, all of Elba.



Troy King

Sen. Shelby to address Coffee County residents at town meeting

U. S. Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) will address Coffee County residents at a town meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held in Enterprise at the City Hall, 501 South Main Street.

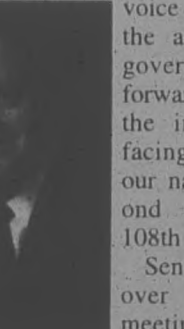
Sen. Shelby will discuss his legislative agenda for the second session of the 108th Congress, as well as important issues facing the nation and the state of Alabama. Following his remarks, Sen. Shelby will open the floor to questions and comments from those in attendance.

Sen. Shelby said, "Over the years, these meetings have provided an excellent opportunity for area residents to listen and

voice their opinions on the activities of our government. I look forward to discussing the important issues facing our state and our nation in the second session of the 108th Congress."

Sen. Shelby has held over 1000 county meetings since being elected to serve the state of Alabama. As part of his commitment to Alabamians, Sen. Shelby holds a meeting in each county once a year.

This meeting is open to the public, and members of the media are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Richard Shelby



COSMETIC TRANSITION—Although beautification remains the ultimate goal of one Elba business, some recent alterations are worth mentioning. The business formally recognized as Denise's Hair and Nail Salon recently became Tangles and Threads when Elba native Melissa Flowers took over as owner/operator of the salon. Despite this change in name and ownership, the staff of Tangles and Threads remains dedicated to hair and nail treatment, as well as, tanning and clothing consignments. On Friday, Feb. 27, the Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed Flowers to business by hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left): Kendall Stinson, Junior Miss Elba Cameron Irwin, Lyndsay Lawford, Future Little Miss Elba Ansley Palgen, Sheri Troubfield, Ramona Grantham, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Melissa Fillingim, Mary McMillan, Tonya Jones, Denise Sauls, Melissa Flowers - owner/operator, Talon Flowers, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Diane Carley, Doris Matthews, Hilda Faye Johnson, Jantzen Flowers, Tim Flowers, Rene Lambert, Glen Johnson, Miss Elba Anna Anderson, Herby McCall and Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

During Coffee County Commission meeting Resident expresses concern regarding danger of unpaved road

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission listened Monday, March 8, as one resident expressed concern regarding the danger of traveling along the unpaved county road in which she lives.

Wanda Kelley, a resident of County Rd. 517 for the past 28 years, told commissioners she wanted to add her point of view surrounding the ongoing dilemma of paving the road.

"This is not a new issue," Kelley said in regards to getting the road paved. "It stays in the forefront of our minds because it is an every day travel."

Kelley said in the past 28 years she has lived on the road; it has never been widened to any extent, and this creates dangerous traveling conditions. "I don't understand why in 2004 two cars can't meet and pass one another on a road," said Kelley. "I can't impress upon you how dangerous this road is to travel."

She said there is much more traffic on this road than those who live on it, and many times

motorists travel at high rates of speed disregarding the dangers created from the narrow road.

In regards to getting the road paved, Kelley said all residents owning property have signed deeds for the right-of-way except three landowners. She said she personally has spoken with these three people, and each has reasons for not signing.

Kelley said it's evident these three landowners are not going to sign the deeds; therefore, she asked, "What are we waiting for?"

Kelley said it was her plea that the residents not have to wait any longer, and she recommended commissioners agree to pay or do whatever it takes to get the three abutting landowners to sign the deeds so

the paving project can move forward and make the road safer for those who have to travel it.

Commissioner Bernest Brooks said the commission does have a game plan. He said the group is following the advice of its counselor, and he feels the ball will get rolling in a matter of weeks.

"We're tired of being put off," Kelley responded.

She said she is tired of having the aggravation of trying to get the road paved and instead looks forward to the aggravation of machinery in the way while the road is actually being paved.

Commissioner Robert Stephens said the landowner from his portion of the road had agreed to sign the deed for \$1,200; therefore, he made a

motion to pay the landowner \$1,200 for the deed to the right-of-way.

However, his motion died on the table for lack of a second. Commissioner Doug Dalrymple said the problem with paying residents for right-of-way is that sooner or later everyone will want to be paid.

"That (paying) takes money away from paving roads," he said. "Eventually, we would be paving less and less roads."

Upon request, county engineer Randy Tindell spoke on the condition of the road. He said the road is narrow, but the county's problem with widening the road is the same as with paving

Please See CCC, Page 14

Judge Steve Blair announces re-election bid

Circuit Judge Steve Blair announces his qualification as the Democratic candidate for Circuit Judge in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Place Three. The Twelfth Judicial Circuit includes both Pike and Coffee counties.

Judge Blair began his career in the court system as a Coffee County juvenile probation officer after completing college. He entered law school at the University of Alabama and graduated in 1985, elected to a second term in

Following law school, Blair served as a law clerk to the Hon. William W. Williams, presiding judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

Judge Blair opened his law practice in Coffee County in 1986. He was elected District Judge in Coffee County in 1994 and was re-elected to a second term in

2000. Following Circuit Judge Gary McAlley's retirement from the bench and appointment as District Attorney in Jan. 2003, Judge Blair was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to fill the vacancy in the circuit court.

While a district judge, Judge Blair's average case load exceeded 10,000 filings per year. In the last 14 months on the bench, Judge Blair has presided over hundreds of civil and criminal trials, jury as well as non-jury matters.

Despite the severe financial problems affecting all branches of state government, Judge Blair remains optimistic about the status of the judiciary. Through the hard work and dedication of all judicial personnel, the Twelfth Judicial Circuit remains current in the timely disposition of the cases coming before the court.

Judge Blair acknowledges and thanks the many people who have supported him in the past and who continue to offer support and encouragement upon his move to the circuit court. In particular, Judge Blair appreciates the substantial guidance and assistance from Judge Bill Barr and Judge Thomas Head.

Judge Blair recognizes a judge's sworn duty and obligation to apply the law fairly to the facts in a case. A judge should not create or "interpret" law to achieve a desired result. Judge Blair pledges to fairly and honestly resolve all cases tried in his court and asks for the vote and support of all residents of Pike and Coffee counties in this election year.



Judge Steve Blair

Area Happenings

THE ZION CHAPEL PTO will meet Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. All parents and teachers are urged to attend this meeting.

THE COFFEE COUNTY LAKE will reopen Friday, March 12. The lake will be open from daylight to sunset and recently has been restocked with bream and catfish.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will sponsor a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 19, at 7 a.m. in the First Baptist Church social hall in Elba. Representative Terry Spitzer and Senator Jimmy Holley will be present to give an update on the current Legislative Session. Those planning to attend should call the chamber (897-3125) by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, to RSVP.

ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the 2004-05 school year will be Thursday, March 18, and Friday, March 19, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the elementary school. The child must turn 5-years-old on or before Sept. 2. In order to register, parents should bring an Alabama shot record, a birth certificate and Social Security card.